

I am Henry R. Quintero, former Director of the Latino Civil Rights Center of Montgomery County and a long time resident of the county.

Wide media coverage of recent census data stressed the marked increase of Latinos in Montgomery County and soon to be the largest minority here. These redistricting hearings are of particular importance to Latino citizens.

We have been anticipating the growing majority of our community for some time. Now the time has arrived and the work of redistricting Montgomery County begins. We in the Latino community have had previous redistricting experience in the city of Takoma Park. In 1990, a redistricting committee in that city documented the population increase based on 1990 census data. Accordingly, the number of Takoma Park city districts increased from four to six. Much of the increased was in minority communities. It was an encouraging action taken by that city, and we hope that similar action on the part of this Commission will achieve similar results for all of Montgomery County.

We eagerly await the recommendations of the Redistricting Commission and the actions of the County Council to implement those recommendations.

Thank you


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